

# CONNECTICUT MARITIME COALITION



## **Testimony of Connecticut Maritime Coalition, Inc. Environmental Committee Public Hearing: PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS REVISIONS OF FY 2017**

**March 15, 2016**

Chairman Bye and Chairman Walker, thank you for the opportunity to participate in today's public hearing in full support of the Port Authority line item funding of \$400,000 found in the PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS REVISIONS OF FY 2017.

By way of background, the CMC, organized in 1999, represents Connecticut's deep-water port businesses. Commercial ships that call on Connecticut's ports carry oil, gasoline, steel, lumber, road salt, and scrap metal. Virtually all the gasoline you have pumped into your car or the heating oil used in your home entered the state through one of Connecticut's deep-water ports. Ninety percent of the commercial ship traffic that enters LIS will end up at a Connecticut deep-water port. Connecticut is also homeport to several squadrons of deep-draft U.S. Navy submarines. Millions of passengers and vehicles cross Long Island Sound each day on an extensive network of passenger ferries.

The May 2002 CMC/CTDECD report titled Connecticut's Ports: Transportation Centers for People and Goods found that the State should establish coordinating mechanisms to maximize the benefits of public and private investments in port infrastructure and logistics of the intermodal systems.

The State's 2010 Connecticut Deep Water Port Strategy Study found that a Statewide Port Authority would provide the development and implementation of a long-term vision for all three deep water ports of Connecticut and their related industries, and help to reverse the decline and improve the competitiveness of the deep water ports.

On June 16th, 2014 Governor Dannel P. Malloy signed Public Act 14-222, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Port Authority. Per the legislation, the Authority's primary role is to coordinate port and maritime economic development, establish a statewide port marketing strategy, and serve as the lead agency in seeking federal, state and private funding for port development.

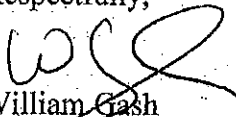
It is the experience of industry members who interface with Port Authority's up and down the East Coast that the ultimate success of the Port Authority lies primarily with a seasoned professional staff and commitment from the State to market its ports. A large

proportion of the Port Authority \$400,000 line item is dedicated to professional staffing and marketing.

Connecticut's three deep water ports are extraordinary and uniquely valuable assets, and the time has come to seriously use these assets to advance economic growth and job creation, for the benefit of all the people of the State of Connecticut.

We strongly urge the Committee to support the Port Authority line item funding of \$400,000.

Respectfully,



William Gash  
Executive Director